

Please re-write the claims as follows:

55. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising:

a conjugate of a nonextracellular matrix protein, nonlabeling agent and a carboxamide-carrying linking molecule,

wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a sunscreen agent, a cosmetic, an enzyme, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a member of a ligand/receptor pair, a tissue sealant, a bulking agent, a hair conditioning agent, a hair fixative, a moisturizing agent, a depilatory agent, an anti-nerve gas agent, a film forming agent, a vitamin, an insect repellent and a component of a high affinity noncovalent coupling pair;

wherein the linking molecule is not native to the agent, and

wherein the linking molecule comprises at least two contiguous linked glutamines, and is a substrate of transglutaminase.

56. (Amended) The composition of claim 55, wherein the linking molecule comprises a polymer of amino acids containing at least 20% glutamines.

66. (Amended) A composition of matter comprising:

a conjugate of a nonextracellular matrix protein, nonlabeling agent and a polymer,

wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a sunscreen agent, a cosmetic, an enzyme, a bulking agent, a hair conditioning agent, a hair fixative, a moisturizing agent, a depilatory agent, an anti-nerve gas agent, a film forming agent, a vitamin, a coloring agent, a pharmaceutical agent, a member of a ligand/receptor pair, a tissue sealant, an insect repellent and a component of a high affinity noncovalent coupling pair, and

wherein the polymer comprises at least 3 contiguous lysines attached to one another by peptide bonds, and is a substrate of transglutaminase.

67. (Amended) The composition of claim 66, wherein the polymer comprises amino acids, and wherein at least 20% of the amino acids are lysines.

57. (Amended) The composition of claim 55, wherein the component of a high affinity noncovalent binding pair is selected from the group consisting of a ligand of a ligand-receptor complex, and a receptor of a ligand-receptor complex.

58. (Amended) The composition of claim 55, wherein the agent is selected from the group consisting of a cholinesterase and a phosphodiesterase.

79. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>7</sup>, wherein the agent is conjugated to the linking molecule by a bond that is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions.

80. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>6</sup>, wherein the agent is a pharmaceutical agent and the agent is conjugated to the linking molecule by a bond that is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions.

82. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>27</sup>, wherein the agent is not itself a substrate of transglutaminase.

83. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the agent is conjugated to the linking molecule by a bond that is hydrolyzable under physiological conditions.

84. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the agent is a nonprotein.

85. (Amended) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the agent is not itself a substrate of transglutaminase.

91. (Amended) A kit comprising  
a package housing:  
a first container containing the composition of claim 81, and  
a second container containing transglutaminase.

94. (Amended) A kit comprising  
a package housing:  
a first container containing the composition of claim ~~84~~<sup>27</sup>, and  
a second container containing transglutaminase.

97. (Amended) A kit comprising  
a package housing:  
a first container containing the composition of claim ~~102~~<sup>27</sup>, and  
a second container containing transglutaminase.

Please add new claims 99-112 as follows:

99. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the agent is an enzyme.

100. (New) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the agent is an enzyme.

<sup>30</sup>  
101. (New) The composition of claim ~~100~~<sup>29</sup>, wherein the enzyme is selected from the group consisting of a cholinesterase and a phosphodiesterase.

sub 8.3  
102. (New) The composition of claim 55, wherein the conjugate is in or on a microparticle.

SWD 13  
103. (New) The composition of claim 66, wherein the conjugate is in or on a microparticle.

<sup>12</sup>  
104. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the linking molecule comprises at least three contiguous linked glutamines.

<sup>13</sup>  
105. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the linking molecule comprises at least four contiguous linked glutamines.

<sup>14</sup>  
106. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the linking molecule comprises at least five contiguous linked glutamines.

<sup>15</sup>  
107. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the linking molecule comprises a polymer of amino acids containing at least 30% glutamines.

C13  
<sup>16</sup>  
108. (New) The composition of claim ~~55~~<sup>1</sup>, wherein the linking molecule comprises a polymer of amino acids containing at least 40% glutamines.

<sup>32</sup>  
109. (New) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the polymer comprises at least 4 contiguous lysines attached to one another by peptide bonds.

<sup>33</sup>  
110. (New) The composition of claim ~~66~~<sup>25</sup>, wherein the polymer comprises at least 5 contiguous lysines attached to one another by peptide bonds.

111. (New) The composition of claim 66, wherein the polymer comprises amino acids, and wherein at least 30% of the amino acids are lysines.

sub 14  
112. (New) The composition of claim 66, wherein the polymer comprises amino acids, and wherein at least 40% of the amino acids are lysines.